

REMARKS

The Applicants have carefully considered this application in connection with the Examiner's Action and respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Official Action of May 19, 2002, the Applicants elected, without traverse, to prosecute Claims 1-8, comprising Group I, and canceled Group II (Claims 9-15) and Group III (Claims 16-27). In a preliminary amendment, the Applicants amended Claim 1 and canceled Claim 7 without prejudice or disclaimer and in a previous office action response, added Claim 28. In response to the present Office Action Claim 1 has been amended and Claim 8 has been canceled. Accordingly, Claims 1-6 and 28 are currently pending.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that Claim 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. While the Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's basis of rejection for the claims as previously submitted, to expedite the prosecution of the application, they have presently amended independent Claim 1 to incorporate the elements of Claims 8 and have canceled Claim 8. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner pass all are currently pending Claims to issue.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicants now see all of the Claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicit a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-6 and 28.

The Applicants request the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 480-8800 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

HITT GAINES, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Corbett", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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